

DIVISION OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

3 CAPITOL HILL  
CONFERENCE ROOM 104  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Thursday, February 25, 2016  
9:00 AM

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lynn Finocchiaro, LICSW  
Connie Gallo, LCSW  
Barry Noel, LCSW  
Kimberly Perry, LICSW  
Dr. Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Ronda Jones, MSW

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Arlene Hartwell, Board Manager

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

None

1. Establishment of a quorum

A meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners was held on Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 9:00 AM at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 104, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. A quorum was established and the Open Session meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM on a motion by Lynn Finocchiaro and seconded by Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith. Motion carried.

2. Presentation of the December 17, 2015 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith and seconded by Kimberly Perry to accept the Open Session minutes of December 17, 2015. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Open Session minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. Board Manager Report

- Resignation
  - i. Arlene Hartwell informed the board that Sandra Munroe Wunschel has resigned from her assignment on this board effective January 20, 2016.
    - 1. The board expressed gratitude and well wishes to Sandra for her service to the citizens of Rhode Island since November 17, 2005.
- Invitations from NH Office of Professional Licensure and Certification were distributed to board members
  - i. Barry Noel, Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith, and Connie Gallo expressed interest in attending to learn about Social Worker portability discussions in NH

4. Old Business

- Barry Nolan continued his overview of the ASWB New Member Training
  - i. Barry's prepared document was distributed to board members
    - 1. Path to Licensure Program

- a. Arlene Hartwell will draft a letter to Chairpersons of MSW programs in RI informing them of the boards interest in convening meetings at the colleges so that students have an opportunity to attend board meetings.
- 2. Assessment Tools
  - a. Kimberly Perry made a motion for the board to review metrics (# active licenses/percentage of complaints) for the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Lynn Finocchiaro and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- 3. Recommendations to regulation changes
  - a. The board has recommended title protection for 'Social Worker' in RI.
  - b. The board discussed adding language regarding attendance of members at board meetings.
  - c. The board discussed omitting exemption for 'state employees working as social workers.'
    - i. The above recommendations require changes to the RIGL 5-39.1 and this board is not authorized to pursue statutory change.

5. Motion to adjourn to Closed Session

Motion was made by Barry Noel and seconded by Lynn Finocchiaro to adjourn to Closed Session at 10:30 AM. Motion carried. Pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(4) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct.

6. Motion to return to Open Session

Motion was made by Lynn Finocchiaro and seconded by Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith at 12:07 PM to re-open the Open Session and to seal the Minutes of the Closed Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-4, 42-46-5 and 42-46-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws. Motion carried.

7. Final Actions on all votes taken in Closed Session

- The board proposed action on 4 cases.

8. Adjournment

The next Board of Social Work Examiner meeting will be held Thursday, May 19, 2016 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 104, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Motion was made by Lynn Finocchiaro and seconded by Kimberly Perry to adjourn at 12:07 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlene Hartwell".

Arlene Hartwell  
Board Manager  
Center for Professional Boards and Commissions